

# 2011 Global Youth Service Day in Michigan

The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), Learn and Serve – Michigan, and The LEAGUE Michigan mobilized youth across the state through volunteerism this April as part of the 2011 Global Youth Service Day (GYSD). This annual opportunity, held on April 15, 16, and 17, encouraged youth to address the world's most critical issues by partnering with families, schools, community and faith-based organizations, businesses, and government.

GYSD is led by Youth Service America, with the MCSC and The LEAGUE Michigan serving as a GYSD Lead Agencies to encourage service locally. Key highlights of this effort include:

- GYSD projects in 2011 primarily focused on **education, economic opportunity, supporting veterans and military families, health, clean energy/environmental stewardship, disaster preparedness, public safety, poverty, and hunger.**
- More than **1,615 youth** and **522 adults** volunteered more than **6,917 hours** via **106 service projects** in Michigan for GYSD.
- Those volunteers impacted more than **63,000 individuals.**



Here is a sampling of Michigan's 2011 Global Youth Service Day projects:

## Okemos High School Construct Worm Compost Bin

Students in Okemos High School's Environmental Action Club built a worm compost bin in order to capitalize on the food waste created at the school. Not only does the bin have a utilitarian use, but it will provide an opportunity to educate youth about basic principles of ecology and sustainable lifestyles.

## Lake Michigan College Focuses on Recycling

Students at Lake Michigan College (LMC) in Benton Harbor held a LMC Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Day in an effort to help Berrien County residents recycle difficult items; including consumer electronics, household hazardous waste, appliances, and much more. More than 650 vehicles visited the one-stop-shop to take care of their recycling needs.

## Free Laundry Day in Gaylord

The Crawford and Otsego County Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative hosted a "Free Laundry Day" for local low-income and/or homeless families, individuals, teens, and senior citizens. Participants had the cost of their laundry services covered and were connected to human services agencies and community navigators.

## Soup Kitchen Clean Up

The Mr. Rogers Youth Program at Catholic Charities in Flint helped to clean up the Holy Angels Soup Kitchen at St. Michael School. Youth volunteers helped with outdoor beautification, general clean-up, and landscaping as part of the project.



## Project Healthy Living in Detroit

The Delsprite Club of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. held their first-ever Project Healthy Living in an effort to provide health screenings to individuals in the Detroit community and surrounding suburbs. Participants had access to various screenings and participated in exercise classes and workshops focused on healthy living.

## Distributing Fresh Food in Battle Creek

Students from Calhoun Community High School and South Hill Academy in Battle Creek, with help from

HandsOn Battle Creek and the Food Bank of South Central Michigan, hosted a fresh food distribution site for local residents. Nearly 2,000 pounds of fruits, vegetables, and other fresh items were distributed to 70 families.

### **Packing Suppers for Kids' Food Basket**

The Youth Enrichment Scholarship Program's Scholars Academy from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation joined together to pack sack suppers and breakfast bundles for Kids' Food Basket, a local nonprofit committed to providing out-of-school meals to elementary students in need.

### **Pathfinder Chooses to Lead**

Choose To Lead students at Pathfinder Middles School in Pinckney invited the Kids Against Hunger Michigan Coalition to set up a packaging center in the school. Youth volunteers packaged the equivalent of 10,058 meals to be donated to local food banks, churches, and individuals.

### **Tri-Hi-Y's Senior Prom**

To show appreciation to the RSVP members in Dickinson and Iron Counties members of the Tri-Hi-Y student service organization in Iron Mountain held a Senior Prom. Nearly 65 seniors attended, as well as State Senator Tom Casperson.



### **Ionia County Gets Help from Kids Club**

The Ionia Kids Club looked to get their entire county involved in the 2011 Global Youth Service Day. First by encouraging groups and businesses to conduct spring cleaning or host volunteer events and second by staging the Kids Club Volunteer Project to kick off the planting season at the Washington Street Community Garden in Ionia.



### **SLYC Members Serve Others**

Members of the Michigan Community Service Commission's Service Learning Youth Council (SLYC) visited Haven House (a shelter for women and children in East Lansing) to make dinner for the residents as part of Global Youth Service Day. Along with prepping the dining room, the members learned the art of cooking a three course meal for nearly 20 people.

Many 2011 Global Youth Service Day projects were made possible thanks to the Michigan Community Service Commission, The LEAGUE Michigan, Youth Service America, and State Farm. These organizations awarded \$8,000 in mini-grants to Michigan organizations to host service projects as part this year's efforts.

**For more information on the annual Global Youth Service Day, visit [www.gysd.org](http://www.gysd.org).**